

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, and 12 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by McIntyre et al. (US 3,294,060). Claims 10, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Iijima et al. (US 6,393,983). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over McIntyre et al. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over McIntyre et al. in view of Deneka (US 5,826,509). Claims 2 to 4, 9 and 11 were indicated as allowable.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 have been amended. New claims 14 to 17 have been submitted which correspond to previously allowable claims 2, 3, 4 and 9. New dependent claims 18 to 20 have also been submitted.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 102(b)/103 rejections

Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, and 12 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by McIntyre et al. (US 3,294,060). Claims 10, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Iijima et al. (US 6,393,983). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over McIntyre et al. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over McIntyre et al. in view of Deneka (US 5,826,509). Claims 2 to 4, 9 and 11 were indicated as allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "the metering element being movable with respect to the roller surface so that the edge moves along a radial line from a center of the rotating roller." Support for the amendment is found at the last line of [0025] for example. This movement permits the metering element to be moved while maintaining good slitting action.

McIntyre moves the metering element vertically, and thus not "along a radial line from a center of the rotating roller" as claimed in claim 1.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection to claim 1 and its dependent claims, as well as withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejections to claims 5 and 8 is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite that the supply container is unpressurized, as shown clearly in Fig. 1, as the fluid in the supply container is open and horizontal. In McIntyre and Iijima, the fluid is under continuous pressure.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 10 is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 has been amended to be placed in independent form and recite that the edge moves solely radially. This does not occur in McIntyre as the edge, when it moves vertically, moves both radially and tangentially to the roller. Iijima also does not show the limitations of claim 12. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 12.

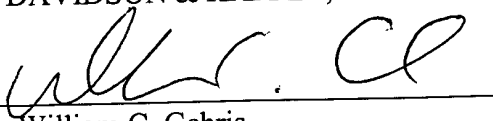
Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 12 and 13 is also respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,
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